

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Fishing Closure

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953.B and R.S.49:967.D of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby closes all recreational and commercial fishing, effective May 6, 2010, in the following area:

All coastal waters east of the Mississippi River and south and east of a line running along the southern shoreline of Bayou Bienvenue to the shoreline of Lake Borgne; thence northeasterly along the southern and eastern shoreline of Lake Borgne to Malheureaux Point at latitude 30 degrees 04 minutes 45 seconds north and longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 59 seconds west; thence northeasterly to a point at latitude 30 degrees 05 minutes 23 seconds north and longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 23 seconds west; thence northeasterly to a point on the most western point of Half Moon Island at latitude 30 degrees 07 minutes 50 seconds north and longitude 89 degrees 26 minutes 49 seconds west; thence northwesterly to a point at latitude 30 degrees 09 minutes 15 seconds north and longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 34 seconds west; thence northeasterly to a point on the Louisiana-Mississippi State Boundary at latitude 30 degrees 09 minutes 50 seconds north and longitude 89 degrees 28 minutes 20 seconds west.

Effective with the closure, no person shall take or possess or attempt to take any species of fish from waters within the closed area. The possession, sale, barter, trade, or exchange of any fish or other aquatic life from the closed area during the closure is prohibited.

The commission hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to broaden or to reopen the area closed to fishing if biological and technical data indicates the need to do so.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of Louisiana's coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

This action is taken in coordination with Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, to avoid the possibility that commercially harvested and recreationally caught fish and other aquatic life used for consumption are tainted with hydrocarbons. Governor Jindal in a declaration of emergency issued on April 29, 2010 stated in part that "a declaration that a state of emergency exists is appropriate due to the predicted impact of oil along the Louisiana coast leaking from the Deepwater Horizon which threatens the state's natural resources, including land, water, fish, wildlife, fowl and other birds, and likewise threatens the livelihoods of Louisiana's citizens living along the coast which increases the economic impact of this incident".

Stephen J. Oats
Chairman